

# Salt River Fire Department Operating Guidelines

## Rehab Sector

May 2006 (Rev)

202.08

1 of 3



It is the policy of the Salt River Fire Department that no member will be permitted to continue emergency operations beyond safe levels of physical or mental endurance. The intent of the Rehabilitation Group is to lessen the risk of injury that may result from extended operations under adverse conditions. This procedure is in no way intended to diminish initial fire attack aggressiveness.

The Rehabilitation Group, radio designation REHAB, will be utilized to evaluate and assist personnel who could be suffering from the effects of sustained physical or mental exertion during emergency operations.

The Rehab Group will provide a specific area where personnel will assemble to receive:

1. A physical assessment
2. Revitalization - rest, hydration and refreshments
3. Medical evaluation and treatment of injuries
4. Continual monitoring of physical condition
5. Transportation for those requiring treatment at medical facilities
6. Reassignment

A Rehab Team will be utilized wherever possible to establish and manage the Rehab Group. This team will consist of:

1. Ambulance
2. ALS Company
3. Designated Group Officer with Crew
4. CISM Team Member, as Needed

Command will have responsibility to make an early determination of situations requiring the implementation of a Rehab Group.

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2 of 3



At times, due to the incident size or geographic barriers, it may be necessary to establish more than one Rehab Group. When multiple rehab Groups are established, each Group will assume a geographic Division consistent with the location at the incident site, i.e., Rehab South, Rehab North.

At incidents involving large life loss, or extended rescue operations (i.e., plane or train wreck), the CISM team will be contacted and be assigned to Rehab Group.

The Rehab Group and should be located adjacent to the Command Post, whenever possible. A mobile canteen may also be assigned to this Group.

The Rehab Group area boundaries will be defined with blue tape and will have only one entry point. It will be divided into the following four sections:

### **SECTION A: Entry Point**

This is the initial entry point and decontamination area. Assigned personnel will insure passports have been collected from crews and take a pulse rate on all crewmembers. Any member who has a pulse rate greater than 120 will report directly to Section C, Medical Treatment and Transport, where they will be treated appropriately. Members that do not require medical attention will then report to Section B, Hydration and Replenishment.

The Rehab Group Officer will collect accountability passports from companies reporting to Section A – Entry Point. The passports will be placed on a status board and all personnel will be logged in Rehabilitation Group. Companies may be reassigned to operating groups or divisions or released from the scene.

### **SECTION B: Hydration and Replenishment**

The Utility 292 driver or other designated personnel may staff this section. All personnel will be provided supplemental cooling devices, fluid and electrolyte replacement, and the proper amount of nourishment.

Initial CISM support will be provided in this section, if needed.

### **SECTION C: Medical Treatment and Transport**

This section is staffed by an ALS crew and Rescue. Personnel reporting here will receive evaluation and treatment for heat stress and injuries.

The ALS crew in this section will pay close attention to the members:

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202.08

3 of 3



- Pulse
- B/P
- Body Temperature

After allowing 20 minutes for a cooling down period the pulse, blood pressure, and temperature will be rechecked. Any member with a pulse rate, greater than 100, will be relieved from duty for the remainder of the shift. A member who has a temperature greater than 101 or a blood pressure less than 100 systolic will be provided IV fluids and transportation to an appropriate medical facility. The attending ALS unit will follow path protocol with their base hospital.

The ALS company assigned will advise the Rehab Group Officer of the necessity of medical transportation and extended medical attention requirements of personnel due to physical condition. Crews released from Section C will be released as intact crews to report to Section D.

### **SECTION D: Reassignment**

This critical section determines a crews' readiness for reassignment. Diligent efforts and face-to-face communication with the Rehab Group Officer are required. Personnel manning this section will advise the Rehab Group Officer of all companies' status for reassignment and crews that are running short or without a company officer. This information is relayed to Command by the Rehab Group Officer. Crews without a Company Officer will be assigned to another company or have a member of the crew move up to the Captain's position.

The Rehab Group Officer will update Command throughout the operation with pertinent information including the identities of companies in Rehab, the companies available for reassignment, and the status of injured personnel. All personnel leaving Rehab will retrieve passports from the Rehab Group Officer.

Company Officers must keep crews intact and report to the proper sections in Rehab. The Rehab Group Officer will direct the crew to the proper sections; however, it is the Company Officer's responsibility to make sure crew members receive refreshments, rest, a medical clearance, and retrieve Company passport.